

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-04

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 EB-03 L-01 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 OES-02 OMB-01 TRSE-00 PM-03 SAM-01

SP-02 /042 R

DRAFTED BY AF/W:EWLOLLIS:MN

APPROVED BY AF-EWMULCAHY

AF/C:EFUGIT (INFO)

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L/AF:FWILLIS (INFO)

AF/W-JKBISHOP

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY LAGOS PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 005267

LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ENRG, BGEN, AO, NI

SUBJECT: NIGERIA PRESSURES GULF OIL OVER CABINDA

1. GULF OIL CORPORATION JANUARY 7 SHOWED DEPARTMENT COPY OF A TELEGRAM FROM MANAGING DIRECTOR, GULF OIL (NIGERIA) LTD. IN SHORT, GULF HAS BEEN TOLD BY THE FMG THAT THE MPLA HAS DESIGNATED FMG AS ITS AGENT FOR DISCUSSING GULF'S "DEBT" TO THE MPLA REGIME. GULF WAS REQUESTED TO SEND A SENIOR EXECUTIVE FROM PITTSBURGH TO LAGOS TO DISCUSS PAYMENT.

2. DEPARTMENT ADVISED GULF TO REPLY TO FMG BY AGREEING TO THE REQUESTED MEETING AND ASKING WHEN IT IS TO TAKE PLACE, BUT NOT ADDRESSING THE SUBSTANCE OF THE DEMAND. THIS
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SEEMED A SATISFACTORY WAY TO BEGIN PLAYING FOR AS MUCH TIME

AS POSSIBLE WHILE THE OAU TRIES SORT OUT THE ANGOLAN SITUATION.

3. LATER SAME DAY, GULF SHOWED US A MESSAGE DIRECT FROM MPLA ASKING THAT A REPRESENTATIVE VISIT LUANDA WITHIN EIGHT DAYS TO DISCUSS PAYMENT OR RISK TAKEOVER. WE THEN URGED GULF TO REPLY ONLY TO THE NIGERIANS IN THE FIRST INSTANCE AND PROLONG THE CONFUSION AS LONG AS POSSIBLE.

4. COMMENT: IN VIEW GULF'S EFFORTS TO OBTAIN MORE NIGERIAN OIL TO MAKE UP FOR ITS LOSS OF CABINDAN PRODUCTION, FMG COULD HAVE GULF IN A BIND. KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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